

COMMUNITY COLLEGES LONGITUDINAL
GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP
A STUDY OF COLLEGE GRADUATES FIVE YEARS
AFTER GRADUATION

Research Branch

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY COLLEGES OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

A. Background

The purpose of this longitudinal outcomes assessment is to provide information regarding the post college experiences of Manitoba Community College graduates for use in the areas of educational planning and management, and for assisting potential students in their career and post-secondary education decision-making.

Information was obtained from students who have graduated from college programs in Manitoba in the following areas:

- a) Participation in community/professional organizations;
- b) Post-education labour market experiences;
- c) Continuing education plans and experiences;
- d) Critical intellectual development;
- e) Personal development resulting from the socio-cultural environment at the college and the educational experience;
- f) Satisfaction with changes in job and career;
- g) Background demographic variables.

B. Methodology

The survey population included all of the graduates from Red River Community College, Assiniboine Community College, and Keewatin Community College, who had graduated in 1976, and also responded to a previous training outcomes assessment survey which was undertaken in the summer of 1977, one year after their graduation. A total of 1,018 graduates were surveyed. Two-year diploma graduates, one-year diploma graduates, and some short course graduates were included in the survey. Major program areas surveyed were the health and personal services area, business administration studies, applied arts, industrial and technology, and teacher education.

A mail survey technique was utilized in the survey. Graduates who had failed to respond to the first mailing were sent two additional letters and surveys. The

survey was undertaken in the summer and early fall of 1981.

A total of 1,018 surveys were mailed out to the former graduates, with 867 being sent to Red River Community College graduates, 119 to Assiniboine Community College graduates, and 32 to Keewatin Community College graduates. The overall rate of response for this survey was 43.4% with a total of 422 surveys being returned (excluding non-locates) with response rates of 44% from Red River Community College, 53% from Keewatin Community College, and 39% from Assiniboine Community College (Table 1, Page 6).

A table of summary outcomes information as well as a list of definitions is included at the end of this report (page 7, page 8).

C. Background Information

- 85% of the survey respondents were from Red River Community College, 11% from Assiniboine Community College, and 4% from Keewatin Community College.
- 55% of the survey respondents were male, and 45% were female.
- 19% of the survey respondents were 24 years of age and under, 64% in the 25 - 29 year age group, and 17% were 30 years of age and older at time of survey.
- 41% of the respondents were in the two-year diploma program, 55% in the one-year certificate program, and 4% graduates of short courses.
- of the graduates, 82% were provincial entry students, and 18% were sponsored by Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.
- in terms of mobility, 98% of the graduates were living in the Province of Manitoba prior to entering the college. At the time of the survey, 84% were living in Manitoba. Of the employed graduates, 83% were working in Manitoba at the time of the survey.
- main reasons cited for graduates moving included: better job opportunities, had a job offer, and spouse's transfer.

D. Reasons for Attending Community College

- for all graduates, the major reason stated for attending Community College was due to the career prospects. Of lesser importance were interest in broadening knowledge, and personal development.

E. Satisfaction With College and Program Choice

- 95% of the graduates were satisfied with their decision to attend community college.
- concerning their program choice, 77% were basically satisfied with their program choice, 10% indicated that a different certificate or diploma would have been more beneficial, while 13% thought that other training such as university would have been more beneficial to them.

F. Labour Market Outcomes

- one month after graduation, the labour force participation rate of the graduates was 93%, while the unemployment rate was 22%. In addition, 7% of the graduates were not in the labour force.
- one year after graduation, 90% of the graduates were labour force participants, while the unemployment rate was 4%. An additional 10% were not members of the labour force.
- at the time of the survey in July 1981, the labour force participation rate was 90%, while the unemployment rate was 4%. An additional 10% of the graduates were not members of the labour force.
- for these graduates, their average weekly earnings were \$367.00 per week, and average hourly earnings of \$9.49 (at the time of the survey).
- almost all of the employed graduates were working in full-time jobs (30 hours per week or more).
- employed graduates were generally satisfied with their jobs, with 90% satisfied or very satisfied with their job. Other areas of satisfaction with the job included job security (88%), status and rank of the job (85%), and the challenge of the job (83%).
- when graduates were asked whether they were able to apply what they had learned in their studies, 93% indicated that they were able to apply those things learned in their studies to a large extent or to some extent in their job.
- graduates were also asked whether it was important to them to find a job related to their field of study, 71% indicated that it was important to them, 22% indicated that it was desirable but not necessary, and the remainder indicated that this was not important to them.
- questioned about the education requirements of the job, 54% indicated that their job required their specific college certificate or diploma which they had obtained, while 13% indicated that the job had required a certificate or diploma, but in no specific field. An additional 33% indicated that their job did not require any certificate or diploma.

Occupations and Industries of Employment of Graduates

- major occupations and careers of graduates included: natural science and engineering occupations (19% of the graduates), medicine and health (15% of the graduate), clerical and related (15% of the graduates) and managerial and administration (12% of the graduates).
- in terms of the graduates industries of employment, 17% of the graduates were employed in health and social service industries, 16% were employed in wholesale and retail trade, an additional 9% were in business service, 9% were in government and 10% in manufacturing industry.

H. Critical Intellectual Development

In the area of critical intellectual development, graduates were asked to indicate the importance and achievement during their studies of a range of possible factors. In addition, they were asked about their goals while attending community college, both the importance of these goals in their college education, and the extent of their achievement of these goals.

- for the community college graduates, the important factors included learning development (developing skills and tools to continue learning in situations following community college education) and reasoning development (applying principles of logical thinking to define problems, establish facts and draw valid conclusions). These factors were most frequently cited by the graduates as being the most important areas in educational development at community college. Also, these two areas were indicated as the areas of major growth during their stay at the community college.
- community college graduates were also questioned as to the importance of several goal areas and their extent of achievement of these goals during their community college education. Major goal areas in terms of the importance and extent of achievement were the academic goals: to increase my knowledge or understanding of an academic field and to obtain a certificate or diploma; the career preparation goals: to discover career interests, to prepare for a career, and to formulate long term career planning and/or goals; job or career improvement goal: to improve my knowledge, technical skills, and competencies for my job or career; and the personal development and enrichment goals: to increase my self-confidence; to improve my ability to think for myself and make decisions; to improve my ability to get along with others; and to increase my desire and ability to undertake self-directed learning.

I. Continuing Education Plans

- graduates were questioned as to whether they were either planning to take or taking further education. A total of 19% of the graduates indicated that they were presently taking further education, while 31% indicated that they were planning to take further education within the next five years.
- the first choice institution of attendance of 25% of the graduates was Red River Community College, with another 25% of the graduates indicating a desire to attend the University of Manitoba. An additional 21% of the graduates indicated their desire to attend another institution in Manitoba, with 15% wishing to attend institutions outside of Manitoba.
- the majority (75%) wished to attend their institutions part-time and in the evening, while 21% wished to go full-time. An additional 4% of the graduates wished to take on-the-job training.

TABLE 1
RESPONSE RATES BY COLLEGE

COLLEGE	NUMBER SENT OUT	RETURNED		NON-LOCATE		RESPONSE RATE %
		(N)	%	(N)	%	
Assiniboine	119	(46)	38.6	(2)	1.7	39.3
Keewatin	32	(16)	50.0	(2)	6.3	53.3
Red River	867	(360)	41.5	(42)	4.8	43.6
TOTAL	1018	(422)	41.5	(46)	4.5	43.4

SOURCE: Community College Longitudinal Survey

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OUTCOMES

SUMMARY PROFILE

Category	Unit	1976
1. Total in Survey	N	1,018
2. Employment Activity		
- One Month After Graduation		
a) Participation Rate	I	93.3
b) Unemployment Rate	I	21.7
c) Not working - in school	I	1.2
- other	I	5.5
- One Year After Graduation		
a) Participation Rate	I	90.2
b) Unemployment Rate	I	3.8
c) Not working - in school	I	8.6
- other	I	1.2
3. Employed in July, 1981		
a) Participation Rate	I	90.2
b) Unemployment Rate	I	3.7
c) Not Working - in school	I	3.6
- other	I	6.2
d) Employed in Manitoba	I	83.1
e) Average Weekly Earnings (hourly)	\$	\$367.00 (9.49)
f) Satisfaction With Job in General		
- Very Satisfied	I	56.3
- Satisfied	I	35.9
g) Importance to Find a Job Related to Field of Study		
- Important	I	70.5
- desirable, but not necessary	I	21.6
h) Requirement of Job		
- requires specific College Certificate and/or diploma	I	54.3
- requires a Certificate/Diploma, but no specific field	I	13.2
- does not require a Certificate/Diploma	I	32.5
i) Can apply field of study in job		
- Yes, to large extent	I	59.6
- Yes, to some extent	I	32.9
4. Presently Taking/Planning to Take Further Education		
- presently taking	I	19.2
- planning to take in next 5 years	I	30.9
5. Satisfied with Decision to Attend Community College	I	94.9
6. Concerning the Program Choice:		
- basically satisfied with choice	I	77.4
- different certificate/diploma more beneficial	I	10.0
- other training (university) more beneficial	I	12.6

DEFINITIONS

CANADA EMPLOYMENT SPONSORED STUDENTS - Those individuals who were referred into training by Canada Employment Centres under the Canada-Manitoba Adult Occupational Training Act Agreement. These individuals are referred into training courses of one year (or less) in duration.

CERTIFICATE COURSES - Certificate courses requiring Grade 10 to 12 and are awarded for the successful completion of courses of one year or less in duration.

DIPLOMA COURSES - Post-secondary, non-university courses of two years in duration requiring, as a course prerequisite, a Manitoba Grade XII (or acceptable equivalent). Diplomas are awarded for successful completion of two year courses.

EMPLOYED - The employed includes all persons who at the time of the survey, reported themselves to be employed, self-employed or working for a relative (for example, on the family farm, or fishing).

EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATE - The employment rate represents the number of employed persons as a percentage of the total population (working age).

LABOUR FORCE - The labour force is composed of that portion of the population 15 years of age and over who, at the time of the survey, were employed or unemployed.

NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE - That portion of the population 15 years of age and over who, at the time of the survey, were neither employed nor unemployed.

PARTICIPATION RATE - The participation rate represents the labour force as a percentage of the population 15 years and over.

PROVINCIAL ENTRY STUDENTS - Those individual fee-payers who are not referred into training by Canada Employment Centres. These individuals may participate in training courses of both two years in duration, one year (or less) in duration or short courses.

SHORT COURSES - Includes refresher/up-grading courses, equipment operating courses and medical technology courses which have a term of hospital based training after completion of college training.

UNEMPLOYED - The unemployed includes those persons who, at the time of the survey, reported themselves to be unemployed and looking for work.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of those survey respondents indicating themselves as part of the labour force.

GEOCODE REGIONS - The geocode regions are the official regions for data collection within the Province of Manitoba. They are created by combining the census divisions in which students indicated they lived before and after training and also where they were employed.